Restoration of Intertidal Wetlands Along the I - 45 Corridor - Galveston, Texas

Robert Nailon

Education: M.S., Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences, 1983, Texas A&M University; B.S., Biology, 1979, Southern Methodist University.

Expertise and Experience: Mr. Nailon's experience includes wetland/estuarine ecology, habitat assessment, habitat restoration, fisheries management, natural resource damage assessment, erosion control, project management, and water quality assessment. Mr. Nailon is a restoration specialist with experience in inland and coastal fisheries management on large river systems and coastal estuaries. He has extensive experience in coastal wetland mitigation projects and in conducting Natural Resource Damage Assessments for oil spill clients. He is a member of the ENTRIX spill response team. Additional experience includes water quality assessments, Section 404 permitting assistance, wetland assessments and delineations, habitat assessments, and wetland/estuarine ecology. Mr. Nailon was a recipient of the 1992 U.S. Department of Agriculture Distinguished Service Award, the highest award given by the USDA, for work in wetland creation in Galveston Bay, Texas.

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Scenic Galveston, in cooperation with ENTRIX, Inc. of Houston, Texas is currently reclaiming, restoring, and enhancing severely degraded acreage associated with an above-ground earthen-levee dredge material containment area and two subtidal borrow pits along the I-45 corridor immediately north of the Galveston Causeway. The objective of the proposed project is to reduce the landfill and associated access roads to an elevation suitable for the planting and successful propagation of smooth cordgrass, *Spartina alterniflora,* and reclaim as much additional land as possible for smooth cordgrass planting through the partial filling of the borrow pits with landfill materials. The restoration of these wetlands is one part of a three-phase project, initiated in 1993, to permanently acquire and protect almost 900 acres of wetland habitat for migratory waterfowl and other wetland-dependent species, including threatened and endangered species. In addition to the creation of highly productive estuarial wetland habitat, this restoration will greatly enhance the aesthetic qualities of the approach to Galveston Island by removing a development eyesore.